GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5557
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
KILLING OF EMBRYOS
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rising trend in the killing of embryos;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years, year-wise;and

(d) action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The Child Sex Ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration of population. Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c): Total number of ongoing Court/Police cases filed under Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act are 412 and 64 ultrasound machines seized/sealed as on 3rd May, 2007. Though most of the cases are for non-registration of the Centre/Clinics, 58 cases relate to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus in the country.

(d): National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC) has been continuously monitoring the action taken report on the court cases. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) constituting representatives from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development, NGOs and Central Supervisory Board Members at the Centre takes stock of the ground realities by field visits to the States. The report is sent to the Chief Secretary of the State for taking action on the same. The States have also been requested to constitute State Inspection and Monitoring Committee (SIMC). The Government of Gujarat has already constituted it and the State of Delhi is in the process of constituting it.

In the State of Punjab, registration of a doctor has been suspended for five years by State Medical Council of Punjab. In Haryana, a doctor & his assistant in the district of Palwal were sentenced for simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- each under PC & PNDT Act. In Delhi, two doctors were sent to jail for 24 hours after search/seizure of their machine was done by District Appropriate Authority.